

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 272
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Meredith Baither, Vanderbilt University's "Mr. Commodore", for winning the 2003 National Mascot Championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful university mascots who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the character of "Mr. Commodore," the mascot of Vanderbilt University, has been enthusiastically and remarkably portrayed by Ms. Meredith Baither, inspiring athletes and fans alike; and

WHEREAS, a sophomore Elementary Education and Natural Sciences double major from Toledo, Ohio, Ms. Baither ably represented the Vanderbilt community at the National Cheerleading Association's Cheer and Dance Collegiate Championships in Daytona Beach, Florida, attaining victory in the mascot division; and

WHEREAS, performing a 90-second skit entitled "The Mad Scientist Making the Ultimate Team," Meredith Baither secured her place in the finals competition; and

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WHEREAS, wowing the judges and entertaining and amusing the audience in the finals round, "Mr. Commodore" outclassed the competition, claiming the victory over the likes of Georgia Tech's "Buzz," Mississippi State's "Bulldog," Purdue's "Pete," Colorado's "Chip," the North Texas Eagle, and the New York University Bobcat; and

WHEREAS, though she is but one talented performer in the venerable history of the Mr. Commodore character, Ms. Baither is the first national champion mascot from Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Meredith Baither epitomizes all that is good in today's student-athlete, as she has achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both inside and outside the arena of competition; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Baither has inspired the Vanderbilt student body and united the entire Nashville community in completing her triumphal run through the 2003 National Cheerleading Association Cheer and Dance Collegiate Championships; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this young woman not only made possible a national championship, but also surely bode well for her success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, as the many Vanderbilt enthusiasts who have filled the Commodore's shoes in days past have gone on to pursue successful careers in many different fields, Meredith Baither's future is bright; she holds the promise of a tomorrow in which all young people are challenged and encouraged to make manifest their awesome potential; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Ms. Meredith Baither for her remarkable enthusiasm, creativity, and school spirit and honor her for serving as an example of the exceptional quality of Tennessee students; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we do hereby honor and congratulate Ms. Meredith Baither, Vanderbilt's

"Mr. Commodore," on winning the national championship and extend to her our best wishes for her continued success in every endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.